

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/743,865	MATSUMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sameh H. Tawfik	3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/18/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 4,5,23 and 24.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01192006
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 3721

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the claimed packing method as amended and supported by the reasons provided in the remarks of the amendment filed on 10/18/2005 and 01/06/2006.

As to claims 4 and 23: the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the claimed packing method comprising providing a pallet (2); placing an article on the pallet (CP); fixing the article on the pallet; wherein an article fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the pallet or accommodated to the pallet and the article fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space when the article is to be packed (Figs. 2A and 2B); the article is an image forming apparatus (CP), the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic document feeder having the article fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the pallet (Figs. 1, 3, and 4).

As to claims 5 and 24: the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the claimed packing method comprising providing a pallet (2); placing an article on the pallet (CP); fixing the article on the pallet; wherein an article fixing member is accommodated in an accommodating space internal to the pallet or accommodated to the pallet and the article fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating space when the article is to be packed (Figs. 2A and 2B); a document table corresponding to a surface below an automatic document feeder

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(ADF) corresponding to a ceiling plate (Fig. 4; ceiling plate 8) is provided with a sheet material (5) whose covering area can be changed, the article fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material (Fig. 1); the sheet material (5) and a cover (6) which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder are integrally formed together (Fig. 4).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3721



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